

Practitioner's Guide

Bite-sized

TIPS



Outdoor Risky Play

1. Language is important. Instead of saying “Be careful” to the children, make them aware of their surroundings. Using sentences like “look how high you are” or “What will you do next?” etc allows the children to learn how to keep themselves safe and develops confidence during risky play. These kind of statements also help to develop critical thinking skills.



2. Let children make their own judgements regarding their abilities. If a child is climbing up high, allow the child to climb freely, don't help them by lifting them up. If you lift a child up higher than their abilities, this can lead to accidents as the child may not be able to safely get back down. Be there to offer support and encouragement.



3. Sometimes we have experiences and outcomes already chosen for children, but if the child chooses to go off in a different direction it is okay to deviate from plan. Children will learn better when they are fully engaged and sometimes this is through setting their own agenda and outcomes.

Learn!

4. Don't be afraid to give children real tools to use. Tools allow children to experience real life equipment and can develop new skills as well as learn about keeping safe. Risk assessments completed by practitioners will ensure the children are not in danger of seriously harming themselves.



5. Have consistent messages. As a staff team decide on rules that everyone agrees with. The children need consistent messages to allow them to understand boundaries and what is expected of them. If you are nervous or scared when the children are taking part in risky play, the children will be able to pick up on this and it could cause them to panic.



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